

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 002446

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W
STATE FOR CA/OCS/FROBINSON
STATE FOR EB/ESC/IEC/ENR/BLEVINE
STATE FOR DS/IP/AF
STATE FOR INR/AA
STATE PASS DOE FOR DAS JBRODMAN AND CGAY
STATE PASS TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS AND SRENENDER
STATE PASS DOC PHUPER
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/06/2009
TAGS: [EPET](#) [CASC](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: CHEVRON AND SHELL STATIONS OCCUPIED; ONE AMCIT HELD

REF: LAGOS 1978

Classified By: Consul General Brian L. Browne for Reasons 1.4 (D & E)

Summary

[11.](#) (C) Chevron Texaco (CT) Nigeria confirmed that local community members occupied the Robert-kiri flow station near Port Harcourt, Rivers State on 5 December. Thirty CT employees, including one Amcit, are being held at the facility. A CT delegation, accompanied by State Assembly members, is en route to Robert-kiri to negotiate with the villagers. CT has ceased production of between 10,000 - 20,000 barrels/day at the facility. Shell also confirmed that local villagers occupied the Ekulama I and II flow stations, near Kula in Rivers state, on 5 December. The villagers have now departed the Shell facilities, and there were no injuries. The Italian Embassy told Embassy Abuja there was an unsuccessful attempt to take over an AGIP facility on December 3.

Chevron Texaco Station Remains Occupied; One Amcit Held

[12.](#) (C) Chevron Texaco (CT) External Affairs Director Femi Odumabo confirmed local community members have been occupying the Robert-kiri facility near Port Harcourt since 5 December. At this writing, Odumabo and a delegation from the Rivers State Assembly are en route to negotiate with the townspeople. CT Environmental, Safety and Health (ESH) Manager reported approximately thirty CT employees, including one Amcit, are being held by the community members. CT has moved to security code 4 at a number of its facilities in the area. (Chevron operates under a 5-tier security system; at level 5, the company completely withdraws from an area.) The number of community members occupying the facility has fluctuated from the approximately 300 villagers who initially took over on Sunday morning to as few as 25; currently over one hundred villagers appear to be participating. The locals have been reticent to voice many specific demands. A Chevron official told us the only demand has been to speak with President Obasanjo. Chevron Texaco has shut down production at the flow station, because the production activities could endanger the villagers, including children, currently occupying the facility. The flow station's capacity is modest, between 10,000 - 20,000 barrels/day.

Occupation of 2 Shell Stations Resolved Peacefully

[13.](#) (C) In a nearby incident, Shell Security Coordinator Mike Achu confirmed local villagers occupied the Ekulama I and II flow stations, near Kula in Rivers state, for a day beginning on 5 December. (Note: As per reftel, on 24 September, Shell evacuated approximately 200 personnel from the Ekulama and Soku facilities when militants killed two Shell Nigerian boat crew members and disarmed six mobile police in Soku.) Achu said the villagers left the stations, and there were no injuries. A planned intervention by the state security forces was aborted when the occupation was peacefully resolved. Approximately 80,000 barrels of production were lost as a result of the occupation. Achu said production would be restored shortly. Achu reported no information involving Americans or other expatriates, noting that these flow stations were typically staffed by Nigerians.

BROWNE